

VIETNAM COURIER

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5th Year

South Viet Nam

★ **A U.S. Armoured Unit Completely Destroyed in Five Minutes South-Southeast of Da Nang; a Post Near Chu Lai Defended by Two U.S. and One Puppet Platoon Wiped Out in 20 Minutes.**

★ **850 Enemy Troops (Mostly G.I.s) Killed or Wounded North of Quang Tri Province.**

★ **New Enemy Setback in A So Region: 300 Men Put out of Action, 11 Aircraft Downed.**

★ **23 Enemy Vessels (Including Two 8,000 and 12,000-Ton Cargo Boats) Damaged, Burnt or Sunk in Many Engagements in Nam Bo.**

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North Viet Nam

UP TO AUGUST 15, 1968

3,098 U.S. aircraft were downed

We Call On World Public Opinion To Stop U.S. Aggressors' Bloody Hands

— NHAN DAN Editorial, August 13, 1968 —

THE Vietnamese people's victorious resistance to the huge American war machine is and will remain for many an inexplicable phenomenon, or at least one which calls for explanation. One of the essential reasons for this lies in the fact that many foreign observers have but an inadequate grasp of the origins of the Vietnamese revolution. In an era characterized by the instability of organizations and regimes, the Vietnamese revolutionary

— the country was in full political effervescence; all social strata were participating in multiple actions, putting forward national and democratic demands, and carrying on the struggle in the most varied forms;

— that multiform movement was however under a single leadership, all social strata and popular organizations having recognized the leadership of the Communist Party, the only party to have

In the Light of August 1945

movement, like the D.R.V.N. government, strikes by its permanence and continuity. For more than a quarter of a century, three imperialist powers, France, Japan then the United States, have vainly sought to smother it and to hamper its march forward. Now more than ever, as the Vietnamese people, united and resolved, are pursuing their struggle, reaping ever more important victories, an accurate knowledge of the origins of the Vietnamese revolution is indispensable.

ALTHOUGH for more than a century the Vietnamese people's struggle for national independence had never ceased, one may say that the present revolution, after the stormy assaults of workers and peasants in 1930 and the political awakening of masses in 1936, took shape in the 1940's. When World War Two started, the situation in Viet Nam was characterized by two facts of capital importance:

set forth a consistent political program and adequate forms of action and organization.

French colonialist repression made harshly under pretext of the war and Japanese occupation from 1940 to 1945, could neither check the movement nor deprive it of leadership. The Communist Party immediately oriented the national movement towards getting ready for the reconquest of independence and the taking over of power. The necessary political organizations and armed forces were set up; and the entire people engaged in multiple daily actions, in which they became battle-seasoned and acquired the indispensable political and military experience.

While tiny nationalist groups, such as the Dai Viet, spread the illusion that the Japanese would help the Vietnamese people reconquer their independence the Viet Minh front was for resolute and unequivocal opposition to both French colonialism and Japanese fascism.

(Continued page 4)

PROGRESSIVE mankind is bringing in at the tribunal of conscience a verdict against the biggest war criminal of the world today—the verdict on the crimes of aggression and war crimes committed by the U.S. aggressors on the Vietnamese land. These crimes have been piled up higher than the mountains and thicker than the earth. To the old crimes have been added new ones, each more serious than the last, which bare the utter barbarity of the aggressors on the path to doom.

ACCORDING to the Viet Nam Committee for Investigation of U.S. Imperialists and Henchmen's War Crimes in South Viet Nam, since early this year these crimes have taken the form of the following offences: heavy destruction of hundreds of towns and cities with unheard-of atrocities; massacre of the civilian population with bombs and bullets and weapons banned by international law; frantic application of the "burn all, destroy all, kill all" policy; herding of the population into concentration camps; destruction of many cultural monuments, historical relics, churches, pagodas, hospitals and schools; barbarous killing of patriots; brazen robbery of rice, paddy and other property of the town and country people.

As a result of the crimes of the U.S. aggressors and their henchmen, 80% of the Hue city structures have been destroyed, the Da Lat town and the capitals of My Tho and

Ben Tre province heavily devastated; the towns of Pleiku, Koniam, Can Tho... from 50% to 60%, and the towns of Ban Me Thuot, Phan Thiet and Vinh Long, from 30% to 50% demolished. In Saigon, tens of thousands of houses have been reduced to heaps of rubble, tens of thousands of civilians killed or wounded and hundreds of thousands of others rendered homeless. Yet, according to the New York Times of May 21, 1968, the U.S. aggressors and their henchmen still claim that it is necessary to raze to the ground the Cho Lon area inhabited by over 600,000 people in execution of their "plan to defend Saigon". Also as a result of the crimes of the U.S. and its henchmen, many heavily populated rural areas have been devastated such as Cam Lo district, Quang Tri province, where 268 out of the 316 hamlets have been levelled (flat by American bombs and shells, or Huang Tra district, Thua Thien province, where "all the houses have been razed to rubble and the damage was rated 100%", as Radio Saigon reported on February 26.

Having arrogantly delineated "pre-trieth areas", the U.S. aggressors and their henchmen have been committing a large number of their air-craft, including B-52 strategic bombers, to wanton raids in all parts of South Viet Nam, and perpetrating innumerable crimes. According to AP on July 11, 1968, the quantity of bombs dropped by American planes on the area surrounding Saigon in 40 days

equalled the tonnage dropped on South Viet Nam in the three years of 1962, 1963 and 1964 put together. UPI disclosed on June 26, 1968 that the weight of bombs used by the U.S. in Viet Nam since 1965 had reached 2,200,000 tons, greater than the total used by the U.S. throughout World War II.

In the first half of this year, the U.S. and its henchmen sprayed gas and toxic chemicals on nearly 20 provinces in South Viet Nam. Moreover, as reported by the British paper Guardian on June 25, they are planning to spend 70.8 million dollars on chemicals for the period between July 1st, 1968 and July 1st, 1969, that is 50% more than in 1967. They have thousands of square kilometres of the U Minh jungle, committed monstrous massacres in Dien Bien (Quang Nam province), Son My (Quang Ngai province), and elsewhere; dropped bombs and opened fire wantonly on the prisons in Quang Ngai province and in Phu Tai and Phu My (Dinh Dinh province)...

IN North Viet Nam, the crimes of the U.S. aggressors have been also piling up. Six cities and 80% of the provincial capitals and district towns have been subjected to intensive air raids and naval bombardments. In 40% of these towns and cities not a single house has been left standing. Hundreds of villages have been destroyed by

(Continued page 4)

THE D.R.V.N. 'S' 17th Anniversary

THE 17th session of the national congress of the Democratic Republic of Vietnam, held in Paris on August 14, 1968, was a landmark event for the U.S. Government was held in Paris on August 14.

Taking the floor first, Minister of State Nguyen Thuy pointed out that the Paris talks had been going on for exactly three months now, without making any progress, to the fact that the U.S. ruling circles, while paying lip service to peace, actually continued to intensify their aggressive war.

During the past 3 months, the U.S. Government has been resorting to all diatribe manoeuvres to balk the main issue which is the complete cessation of the bombing of the D.R.V.N. and sticking to its unreasonable demand for "reciprocity". Meanwhile, in an attempt to ally criticisms it has spread deceitful reports to induce people to think that the talks were making headway.

The D.R.V.N. envoy made it plain that those who are U.S. ruling circles claim that they had shown restraint and had "de-escalated" the fighting, but in fact, the unprecedented fierceness their aggressive war in Viet Nam had piled up more heinous crimes against the Vietnamese people.

This has only contributed to stiffen the determination and dauntless spirit of the Vietnamese people, Mr. Xuan Thuy said. He recalled that not a U.S. aircraft had shot down in North Viet Nam so far and highlighted the great achievements recorded by the South Viet Nam armed forces and people since the general offensive and upsurge of the spring early this year, which wiped out 380,000 enemy troops including 133,000 men from the U.S. and allied countries, destroyed 4,400 aircraft, 8,730 military vehicles and nearly 500 stores of bombs and munitions. He also recalled that the U.S. ruling circles, while paying lip service to peace, have severely condemned the stubborn attitude of the U.S. Government and demanded that the U.S. stop its war of aggression against Viet Nam.

Dismissing the perfidious claim of the U.S. Government that it was seeking "a just and honourable solution" to the Viet Nam problem, the D.R.V.N. chief negotiator said: "The dark design of the U.S. is to subvert the South Vietnamese people who have been winning victory after victory in their fight, and force them to accept U.S. neo-colonialism. The U.S. has asserted that it respects the South Vietnamese people's right to 'self-determination', but it has created the Saigon puppet administration and consolidated its power as proved by the Honolulu joint communiqué of July 21, 1968. The U.S. has offered an 'honourable solution' put forth by President Johnson, President Humphrey and Nixon, presidential candidate of the Republican Party, but a move to force the victorious South Vietnamese people to bow to the rotten and brutal regime, instrument of the U.S. neo-colonialist policy."

Exposing the hypocrisy of the U.S. ruling circles' promise to the American people to do their utmost for a "de-Americanization" of the war, the representative remarked that while U.S. propaganda was clamorous about a "de-Americanization" of the war, another American brigade was sent to South Viet Nam, together with a lot of American weapons and dollars, to wage a war to prevent the Saigon puppet administration's collapse.

Reiterating the resolve of the Vietnamese people to fight against U.S. aggression, Mr. Xuan Thuy said:

"The Vietnamese people in both zones, North and South, have so far done no harm whatsoever to the security or honour of the United States. The Vietnamese people have been resisting the U.S. aggressors for the sole purpose of ending their fundamental national rights and their right to live freely just as the American people, nearly two hundred years ago, fought for the same noble goal."

"The best, soundest and most reasonable course of action which can save the honour of the United States, preserve the interests of both sides and achieve the noble goal of the U.S. is to end its aggression against Viet Nam, and a peaceful society of the United States. The problem on the basis of the four points of the Government of the United States and the Political Programme of the South Viet Nam National Front for Liberation. First and foremost, it must unconditionally stop its bombings against all other acts of war against the D.R.V.N. then other questions of interest to both parties can be put to discussion. There is no other alternative."

The United States continues to intensify its war of aggression, to persist in its policy to impose neo-colonialism on South Viet Nam, it will only bring upon itself further defeats and ultimate total failure."

The U.S. representative Averell Harriman repeated the slanderous charge that "North Viet Nam commits aggression against South Viet Nam" and "violates international agreements." He cynically declared that the U.S. must continue the bombing to defend its "allies in South Viet Nam."

In conclusion, Minister of State Xuan Thuy declared:

"The Government of the D.R.V.N. demands that the U.S. stop unconditionally its bombing against all other acts of war on the whole territory of the D.R.V.N. This demand enjoys the support of the American people and other people who have a genuine peace loving government. That is why the D.R.V.N. has made this demand until the U.S. meets it. If the U.S. refuses to stop unconditionally its bombing and all other acts of aggression, interference, and aggression against Laos, Cambodia and Thailand."

Referring to the U.S. chief negotiator's allegations, Mr. Xuan Thuy once more made it clear that the U.S. was

the aggressor and that the people throughout Viet Nam from North to South had all the other acts of war against the D.R.V.N. and save their country.

He then dealt with the U.S. representative's plea for a "de-Americanization" of the war. He pointed out that the D.R.V.N. had always respected the independence, sovereignty, neutrality and territorial integrity of Cambodia, Laos and Thailand, but present borders. But, till now, the U.S. has refused to give a similar undertaking. On the contrary, the U.S. and its allies in South Viet Nam are violating the border and territory of Cambodia and Laos, and are attacking Cambodian civilians. In Laos, it is the U.S. government that is waging a special war and floating the fundamental national rights of the Lao people, Mr. Xuan Thuy said.

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THE NORTH—GREAT REAR BASE OF THE SOUTH

Editor's Note.—The D.R.V.N. has tackled socialist construction and in the first place, socialist industrialization from a backward agrarian economy, and decided to boost by 25 years of progress in two years. For over three years now it has been able to cope with a most ferocious air and naval war of destruction ever known in the history of mankind. The following story told by a young country girl who has become a skilled worker and T.U. cadre, tells the readers of the magazine, an idea of the process of socialist industrialization in our country which starts from or nearly from scratch and is carried on successfully despite U.S. bombing.

I was born after the 1945 October revolution. I was lucky enough not to have to experience these past miseries now gone for good which weighed heavily on my shoulders.

Some time later, I finished an elementary school and started studying as much as I could. I learned from books, in life, in classroom and in my workshop.

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A Young Woman Worker's Dream

Without any more ado, I rushed to say on.

I was never pleased with the results obtained though they were, I was always thinking what I could do better. I thought of a machine that required 100 work hours, a target set by the workshop.

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True Tales of People's War

MOTHER NATH'S 300 ANTI-U.S. 'BOMBS'

FOR more than 3 years, for each U.S. plane brought down the North, Mother Nath (Nguyen Huu village, Kham Chai district, Ha Hiep province) has put up savings into the "defeat-the-Yanks savings box." Regularly, she takes the money out and deposits it in the village Savings Bank.

On June 25, 1968, upon learning of the shooting down of the 3,000th U.S. plane over North Viet Nam, with immense joy, she slipped a new 10-cent note into the savings box. As all North Viet Nam was welcoming the happy event, with this 3,000th 10-cent note, Mother Nath had laid by 300 dongs.

Made a widow when her two sons were still little boys, she is now a young girl. She managed to raise her two boys by herself. In the anti-French war of resistance, her eldest son, a guerrilla fighter, had laid down his life. The hatred for the enemy and the memory of her fallen son spurred her to take an active part in the Resistance. She sheltered Resistance cadres engaged in underground activities in her locality.

In recent years, she had many times sent in applications for her younger son to join the army to fight the U.S. aggressors. The Village Party Committee and Administration considered her proposal, but she was turned down on her request. Mother Nath was well aware that their refusal had provoked the general public, which shows the concern of the Party and State for families with only sons and families of war martyrs. She thought hard to find a way for her family to do its share in the current anti-U.S. fight. Finally she opted for the course described above which was taken in response to the call of the Government.

A COURAGEOUS BOY

THE day U.S. B-52's raided village X, in the Vinh Linh area, the Nguyen Van Kanh family was asked by local authorities to move temporarily to safety in another place. All the children of the village were taken to the school house of the 6th form, insisted on returning to his village to join the army and militia in fighting the Yanks.

At the time, Nguyen Van Kanh could only be 11 years old. After the triumph of the August 1945 Revolution, and his first and only son was born after the re-establishment of peace (July 1964). The old couple were deeply attached to the son from whom they would not willingly part for the rest of their life. But faced with his unbearable resolve, they gave way.

"In fact, my child, stay behind and fight well, sonny!" they said.

Waiting no time, Quang handed over their belongings to his mother and ran back as fast as his legs could carry him to the nearest Aek-Ack Battery 4 manned by the militia. He started cleaning the shells and feeding the gun. In the midst of the fierce, the unit ran short of ammunition. It was not a long way to the munition dump and went on with the fighting. This was getting a little bit, Quang moved out, now running now scrambling, and moments later returned with a 30-kg shell.

The next day, the boy was given a rifle. He felt very delighted as he had been for long dreaming of a gun to shoot at the U.S. aggressors who were making havoc of his village. He at once joined in the fighting with the weapon. At times, buried under a heap of earth, he struggled out and went on with the fighting. This was getting a little bit, Quang moved out, now running now scrambling, and moments later returned with a 30-kg shell.

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Hanoi Press Opinion

DRAMATIC DEVELOPMENT IN THAILAND'S ANTI-U.S. MOVEMENT

ON January 31, 1968, the Thailand Patriotic Front came into being, marking a new development of the Thai people's struggle against the U.S. imperialism and democratic reaction. The Front set forth a program of action for the struggle for an independent, neutral, peaceful and democratic Thailand. Since the Front's formation, it has burst out three years ago, on August 7, 1965, in Rong He village, Nakh district, Nakhon Phanom province, Northeast Thailand. The Front's struggle of the Thai people against the U.S. imperialists and their henchmen has not ceased developing vigorously.

The Thai Patriotic forces are now operating in 30 of the 71 provinces of Thailand. Alongside the armed attacks on the enemy, the movement of workers, peasants and other strata of the people for better living conditions and democratic rights has also been gaining momentum. The Communist Party of Thailand is holding aloft the banner of the revolution and is working with all other progressive forces within the Thailand Patriotic Front to step up the revolutionary fight in all forms against the U.S. imperialists and their henchmen.

Frightened by the development of the patriotic movement in Thailand, the U.S. imperialists and the reactionary authorities in Thailand have launched a series of attacks on the Thai people's struggle against the U.S. imperialism and democratic reaction. They have used the story of "North Viet Nam soldiers in Thailand" as a pretext to crack down on the Thai Vietnamese resistance forces. They have also used the story of "North Viet Nam soldiers in Thailand" as a pretext to crack down on the Thai Vietnamese resistance forces. They have also used the story of "North Viet Nam soldiers in Thailand" as a pretext to crack down on the Thai Vietnamese resistance forces.

U.S. STRAWMEN MEET IN CONFAES

A series of meetings of U.S.-engineered organizations were recently held.

The Canberra meeting of the Asian and Pacific Council (A.P.C.) was nothing else but a new attempt of the U.S. to get from its member countries better help for its policy of aggression in Indo-China and Asia.

As for the Asian Parliamentary Union (A.P.U.) and the Association of Southeast Asian Nations (A.S.E.A.N.) was nothing else but a new attempt of the U.S. to get from its member countries better help for its policy of aggression in Indo-China and Asia.

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THE AMERICAN SIDE SHOWS ITSELF EVER MORE OBSTINATE

AT the 17th session of the official talks held in Paris the American representative referred to his ten "constructive proposals," but everyone knows that these are but machinations aimed at misrepresenting the real situation in Viet Nam, asking the Vietnamese people, and especially eluding the unconditional cessation of the bombing and all other acts of war against the D.R.V.N. while asking that the Vietnamese people should show "reciprocity," i.e. that they should put a premium on aggression.

The American representative put forward broad allegations contrary to facts and to the correct opinion held by the people of the world, the American people, and the Vietnamese people. The source of the war in Viet Nam is American aggression, yet the American representative shamelessly asserted that it lies in "aggression by North Viet Nam against South Viet Nam" and that the American imperialists have been doing nothing but "defending freedom."

The American imperialists are the international gentrils, the aggressor, and the most egregious enemy, however, yet the American representative declared that the Vietnamese people "do not want to live in peace with other peoples" and "have exported violence." Having slandered our people with aggression against Laos and Cambodia, "this time the American representative accused us of 'aggression against Thailand.'" Is that not a gross insult to the fact that the U.S.A. has no less than 60,000 occupation troops on Thai territory as well as many important military bases, and that American aircraft taking off from airfields in Thailand have been bombing North Viet Nam and the liberated zone in Laos?

Another particularly brazen allegation by the American representative is his slanderous assertion concerning the struggle being waged by the people of the armed forces of South Viet Nam against American aggressors and their lackeys, which he described as acts of terrorism. Yet everyone knows that it is the American imperialists who are massacring our people in an extremely savage way.

Viet Nam in the Bosom of Africa and Asia

New U.S. Encroachments on Cambodia's Territory

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A U. S. LOOTING RAID IN CAM RANH

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*Ben Luc Bridge
Blasted by P.L.A.F.*

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VNA STATEMENT ON U.S. PUPPET
"RELEASE OF NORTH VIETNAMESE
P.O.W.'S" FARCE

help us to serve you more efficiently in future.

Pathet Lao Radio Flays Harriman's Misrepresentation of Lao Situation

It went on to say: "The so-called 'White Book' published in Paris by Phouma is nothing short of a heap of waste paper. Distorting historical facts with falsehoods, Harriman has offended the feeling of peace- and justice-loving people throughout the world."

VIET NAM COURIER

VIET NAM COURIER

Military Operations

NORTHERN PART OF
SOUTH VIET NAM

CENTRAL VIET NAM

In the first nine days of August north of Quang Tri province, the P.L.A.F. ceaselessly hammered at the enemy in the sectors of Ca Lu, Tan Lam (on Highway No. 9), Dong Ha, Cua Viet, Con Tien and Gio Linh (sea coast). Giat Phong Press Agency reported. They put out of action more than 850 enemy troops, mostly American, destroyed or damaged 15 vehicles including many tanks and a long-range cannons, burnt many depots of ammunition, fuel and military equipment. During many "sweeps" in the mountain regions south of that province the G.I.'s lost on July 29, 80 men (including all the commanding officers of a company) and had on August 8 and 9 100 men killed or wounded and 5 choppers downed.

West of Hue, an enemy raid launched on A So - A Luoi region, failed out. This was admitted by General Zia, commanding U.S. Air Mobile Division 101. Thus between August 4 and 8, 300 enemy soldiers had already been killed or wounded and 11 aircraft downed in this sector. Lastly on August 9, the P.L.A.F. assaulted units of U.S. Air Mobile 1st supported by armoured cars and armed hovercraft. 8 km northeast of Hue, Western agencies reported.

In Da Nang region, between July 28 and August 6, the enemy took 550 casualties (mostly G.I.s) and had 3 choppers downed and 14 vehicles destroyed. The most remarkable battle occurred on August 3, about 40 kilometres south-southeast of Da Nang, in which all the 58 G.I.s on board 6 amphibious carriers escorted by 3 M-41 tanks were killed or wounded, and the 8 vehicles were destroyed and all the weapons captured.

Also according to Western sources, on August 10 and 11, 10 km southwest of Da Nang, U.S. Marines of Regiment 5, Division 1, were hotly pursued by the P.L.A.F., who engaged the enemy in a fierce hand grenade fight. 25 km north of Quang Ngai town, near Chu Lai base, a post defended by two U.S. platoons and 2 puppet platoons was overrun on August 2 after 20 minutes' fighting: all the garrison (440 men) was killed or wounded; their weapons seized. On August 10, Western sources said, units of Brigade 198, of Division America, was badly mauled 20 km northwest of Quang Ngai and many choppers hit by guerrilla fire.

Giat Phong Press Agency reported further on July 22 that the P.L.A.F. won a brilliant victory near Tam Quan, 60 km north of Qui Nhon, over 3 columns of enemy armoured cars and mounted a successful attack on many enemy posts nearby: 200 enemy soldiers were killed

or wounded, 8 tanks and armoured cars destroyed together with 7 lorries, 2 cannons, a mortar, a fuel depot; 2 helicopters were downed. At Qui Nhon town, the P.L.A.F. assaulted an important enemy signal centre on August 12, Western sources announced.

SAIGON AREA

The P.L.A.F. has staged many devastating coups around Saigon against enemy river convoys, Giat Phong Press Agency reported. In the flooded forest of Bung Sat, 25 km southeast of Saigon, within 6 hours on July 30, two 8,000 and 12,000-ton cargo-boats were damaged by P.L.A.F. shelling. The following day, a riverine task force coming there for a raid was intercepted in the vicinity of Bung Sat and 5 vessels burnt. On August 5, "Storm Riverine Task Force" No. 27 was attacked southeast of Saigon and, as reported in our last issue, General F.M.

Davis Jr. was seriously wounded. Giat Phong Press Agency gave adverse losses as 10 vessels burnt or sunk and 200 casualties.

Besides, 5 km south of Nha Be, the enemy suffered 200 casualties on August 7 and 8.

It is also reported that in the engagements southwest of Saigon, the enemy had on August 3 and 4, 200 G.I.s killed or wounded, 2 helicopters downed, and on August 5, 100 G.I.s and 100 puppet troops put out of action and 8 choppers downed near Hau Nghia provincial capital, northwest of Saigon. Giat Phong Press Agency also related that a big battle had taken place on July 18 in Loc Ninh region (20 km north of Saigon) in which one American company had been decimated, two puppet companies burnt out, 30 armoured cars burnt and two choppers downed.

According to Western reports on August 7 and 8, units of U.S. Division 9 sub-

sided heavy losses at Cua Dai, 35 km south of Saigon, while on August 9, Hoi Nhai was pounded by artillery of the P.L.A.F. who stormtrooped puppet battalion covered by armoured cars in Ben Cat region, 40 km north of Saigon. One of the two battles fought against units of U.S. Division 9 on August 12 near Can Duoc was reported by AFP to be the biggest engagement since the beginning of the lunar year.

MEKONG DELTA

ABOUT 80 km southwest of Saigon, on July 30 and August 1, the P.L.A.F. put out of action 200 enemy soldiers trying to clear Highway No. 4. On August 1, 70 km southwest of Saigon, they intercepted a riverine task force at Hoa Luu, sinking 3 vessels full of puppet soldiers and burning 3 landing craft. On the same evening, they bombarded batteries manned by South Korean mercenaries near Hoa Luu.

BEN TRE, CRADLE OF SOUTH VIET NAM "SIMULTANEOUS UPRISINGS"

LOCATED in the Mekong Delta, Ben Tre, open to the wind of the Eastern Sea, is a town laced with an intricate network of rivers and canals. It is famous not only for its coconut groves, its immense ricefields, the songs of its boatmen on the Ba Lai, the Gieng Trom, the Lam Luong, the Cua Dai... rivers, but also for its heroic sons and daughters, the famous "long-haired" troops, the first in South Viet Nam, and especially for the movement of people's earth-shaking "simultaneous uprisings" of which it is the cradle.

In the present movement of generalized attacks and uprisings it is setting a brilliant example by combining armed struggle with political struggle, carrying out the three simultaneous sweeping offensives* and inflicting upon the enemy setback after setback.

Right at the very start, the revolutionary masses rushed forward to wipe out Saigon thugs and the local puppet administration, and cut off traffic, while units of Liberation troops and militia stabbed deep into the enemy's dens in cities and urban centres (Giong Trom, Ba Tri, Mo Cay...) and throughout the countryside, throwing enemy troops into panic and disarray. In the impetus of its initial victories, with the close cooperation of the three kinds of armed forces (regular, regional and militia forces), of the army and the people of the countryside and the towns, Ben Tre has never ceased to provide itself with fresh facilities to wipe out masses of enemy soldiers.

The violent attack on the night of May 5, 1968 was a bang, a blow at the puppet administration in the city.

The subsequent attack on the night of May 6 which threatened Highway No. 4 (Ben Tre - Tho) and tightened the encirclement of the city, forced the enemy to send in rescue troops. It resulted in 1 battalions and puppet regular Division 7 and one company of Rangers put out of action at Huu Dinh.

Ben Tre has particularly distinguished itself by riverine annihilation actions which have long been one of its traditional strong points.

Hardly had an entire convoy of 12 boats with one U.S. battalion on board been sent to the rescue of puppet troops at Huu Dinh and sunk on the Ba Lai river when on the Ham Luong river, regional militia troops of Mo Cay ambushed another enemy convoy, burning or sinking 5 U.S. boats at Dinh Thuy. The most resounding victory took place on the Giong Trom river (May 26 and 27) where 3 enemy boats were burnt or sunk and 1,500 G.I.s put out of action. Drawing lessons from these defeats, the Americans deployed 5,000 men (one U.S. brigade, one regiment of regular puppet troops) against the P.L.A.F. after a prior B-52 bombing of the villages nearby. Half of this troop strength was wiped out and 38 U.S. boats were sunk. The puppet regiment fled in great haste.

Most recently, on July 23 and 24, Ben Tre burnt or sank 33 enemy boats, putting out of action over 600 G.I.s on the Ham Luong and Giong Trom rivers.

Thus, the "small riverine task force" tactic has gone bang, the enemy troops badly mauled on any river,

whether they come in small boats or in groups of boats.

Since the beginning of the period of widespread attacks and uprisings Ben Tre has wiped out or heavily depleted tens of U.S. and puppet battalions, burnt or sunk nearly 170 boats and cut off enemy key communication lines. It has also succeeded in liquidating whole battalions and sinking combat boats in the Mekong theatre.

Ben Tre has cleverly combined military offensives with mass uprisings.

Its famous "long-haired troops" consisting only of women overrun the Cai Son post, captured the base of engineering troops at Rach Vong, disbanded or won over by their political struggle — one company of puppet militia, one puppet company at the Tan Thanh air-strip, 108 puppet militiamen in the Ham Luong area, Chet Say bridge and tens of puppet platoons at Mo Cay, Giong Trom, Ba Tri. Thousands of youths and Buddhist monks have come from newly liberated areas or Saigon-controlled territory to join the P.L.A.F. The people's power has been set up in the countryside and areas close to the urban centres, in a stirring atmosphere.

Holding high the flag of victory, Ben Tre fully deserves the 2nd class "Brass Wall of the Fatherland" Medal awarded by the South Viet Nam N.F.L.

* Political offensive, military offensive, propaganda offensive, propaganda offensive, propaganda offensive.



Liberation fighters and children of newly liberated locality in South Viet Nam